

SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2008

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1



AFRECS 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Growing Relationships....
Building Partnerships*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2008

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN



SUDAN CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2008

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

Connecting Hopes and Gifts

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS) is an organization of U.S. churches, non-governmental organizations, and individuals who care deeply about the struggles of the Sudanese people.

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Photo by Nancy Knapp ©

July 25, 2008 is the deadline for submissions for the next *Sudan Connections*. Send information to Nancy Frank at nancyfrank@aol.com



AFRECS 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Growing Relationships..... Building Partnerships

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2008

Dear AFRECS members,

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO
THE 4TH ANNUAL AFRECS CONFERENCE
May 30, 31, June 1, 2008
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The 4th Annual Conference of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan is coming up quickly. We have great plans for May 30, 31, June 1, in Chicago at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, located in historic Hyde Park, adjacent to the University of Chicago. The Sunday celebration of Holy Eucharist will be at St. Paul and the Redeemer, also in Hyde Park. Make your reservations now. Special rates have been arranged at the Ramada Inn Lake Shore, 773-288-5800, "*close to everything*", and mention you are coming for the AFRECS Conference. The registration form is available on the website: www.afreecs.org. Click on "2008 Conference."

The theme of the Conference is "**Growing Relationships.....Building Partnerships.**" Plenary sessions, panels and interest groups will focus on varieties of relationships that can exist between dioceses, churches and organizations,

both in the US and in Sudan. We are pleased and honored to announce that The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, newly-elected Archbishop of ECS, will be the keynote speaker Friday evening. The Rt. Rev. Francis Loyo, Bishop of Rokon Diocese and Secretary of the House of Bishops, will be present throughout the Conference, speaking on Saturday evening and preaching on Sunday. Both leaders of the ECS will bring us the vision for the Church in Sudan as it moves forward.

Dear friends, I invite all of you to register and consider donating to the Scholarship Fund for a Sudanese refugee to attend the Conference. Remember, there is a discount of \$25, if you register before April 30!

See you soon!

Nancy Frank

Executive Director

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

TRAVEL INFO & DIRECTIONS

THE 4TH ANNUAL AFRECS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO AT LSTC

To download a printable version of this information including driving directions and maps, go to <http://www.lstc.edu/about/maps/truthb.pdf>

AFRECS Conference at
LUTHERAN SCHOOL of THEOLOGY at CHICAGO
1100 E. 55TH ST.
773-256-0700 www.lstc.edu

Via Commuter Train from Downtown

Take the Metra Electric Train south from the Randolph Street Station to the 55th Street stop. Walk or take the #55 Garfield bus .65 mile west on 55th Street to University Avenue. Metra commuter train schedules and fares are available at www.metrarail.com. Chicago Transit Authority Bus schedules and fares available at www.transitchicago.com

Via Greyhound Bus Station from Downtown

630 West Congress Parkway, Chicago

- Take the #60 Blue Island bus to State Street. Ask for a transfer.
- At State Street, transfer to a southbound #6 Jackson Park Express bus to the 55th and Hyde Park Boulevard stop.
- Walk or take the #55 Garfield bus .85 mile west on 55th Street to University Ave.

Via Taxicab

Taxicabs and limousines are available on the ground floor outside the baggage areas from O'Hare and Midway Airports. The approximate cost from O'Hare is \$50 + tip; and \$25 + tip from Midway. Please note that after rush hour and at night, public transportation does not run as frequently. Consider taking a taxi instead.

Via Shuttle Bus from O'Hare Airport

The Omega Airport Shuttle (773-483-6634 or www.omegashuttle.com) departs hourly from the lower level of all terminals and from the Bus/Shuttle Center (Door 4.) The Bus/Shuttle Center is centrally located between Terminals 1, 2, and 3. Follow the overhead signs in the Baggage Claim (Lower Level) areas of each domestic terminal to the nearest underground Pedestrian Walkway. Proceed to elevators 3 or 4 and press the Bus/Shuttle Center button. Omega boards at Terminal 5 Door E for all international flight arrivals. Take Omega Airport Shuttle to the Ramada Lake Shore Inn, 4900 S. Lake Shore Drive. (If asked, the shuttle driver may stop at the seminary.) Take a taxi from the Ramada to the seminary (approximately \$5.) The 2005 cost between O'Hare and south side was \$25.

Via Transportation from Midway Airport

Omega Airport Shuttle (773-483-6634 or www.omegashuttle.com) leaves from Midway Airport every hour, but reservations are required every day except Sunday. Please call for reservations and fares (\$16 in 2005) at least 24 hours in advance. Reservations can be made for stopping directly at LSTC. Omega boards and unloads at Door 3 outside Southwest Airlines' baggage claim. You may follow the Bus/Train signs through the Midway Airport parking garage to the CTA bus terminal and take the #55 Garfield bus east on 55th Street to LSTC. (The 2005 fare was \$1.75; no transfer needed.) LSTC is located about 45 minutes east of Midway on 55th Street. You may also take a taxi from Midway Airport to LSTC (approximately \$25 plus tip).

NEW ECS ARCHBISHOP PLEDGES TO WORK WITH WHOLE CHURCH TO BUILD THE COUNTRY AND UNITE PEOPLE

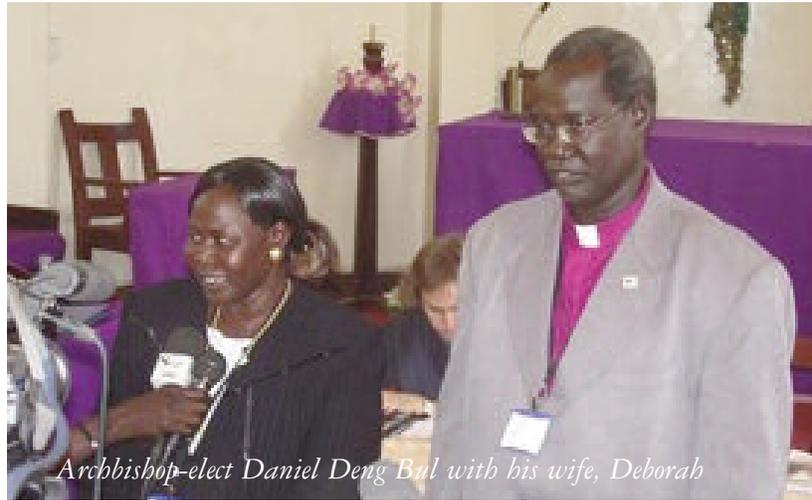
February 14, 2008

A new Archbishop for the Episcopal Church of the Sudan has been elected in Juba today by the Emergency Provincial Synod. The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, Bishop of Renk, was elected on a single round of voting, to become Archbishop of Sudan and Bishop of Juba to fill the place left by the retirement of the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Marona at the end of 2007.

Addressing the Synod following his election, the Rt. Rev. Daniel Bul pledged to work together with the whole people of God to build up the country and unite people.

“We have a challenge ahead of us,” declared the Archbishop-elect. “We need to teach our people for unity and love. We will do that together.”

He also warned that the task ahead required commitment and perseverance. “We should not be divided along tribal lines. We are Christians. We should lead our people in peace. We must give a strong message to the people of Sudan that the Church of God is united.”



Archbishop-elect Daniel Deng Bul with his wife, Deborah

Bishop Daniel Deng gave special thanks to the partners of ECS who had stood alongside ECS through difficult times, in particular the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt. Rev. David Stancliffe, who had led the pre-election retreat. The Archbishop-elect declared his readiness to work with the Church's partners for the building up of the nation. He also thanked his wife, Mama Deborah Deng, for her strong support since the beginning of his ministry.

The new Archbishop is due to be enthroned on 20th April 2008 in Juba.

For further details please contact the Provincial Secretary, The Rev. Canon Enock Tombe, ecsprovince@hotmail.com



AFRECS IS THERE... ELECTION OF THE 4TH ARCHBISHOP OF ECS IN JUBA

THE ELECTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF ECS, FEBRUARY 13-15, 2008

*By Nancy Frank, Executive Director, and
Anita Sanborn, Board Member*

Nancy Frank Reports:

Anita Sanborn, Board member of AFRECS, and I were honored to be observers, representing AFRECS, at the election of the 4th Archbishop of the ECS. Anita is writing about the election itself, and I'm covering all the rest of the days in Juba. For both of us it was a return to Sudan and an opportunity to build upon relationships and to meet new Bishops, clergy and staff from all 24 Dioceses.

Monday and Tuesday, February 11 and 12, were arrival days for all the delegates and observers. It was wonderful to go to All Saints Cathedral church compound in Juba and meet so many old friends all talking over cups of tea at plastic tables bunched under any bit of shade. Eventually, quiet circle groups formed around the yard as the discussion focused in on the event at hand.

Wednesday was a Retreat Day led by Bishop David Stancliffe of Salisbury, Church of England. He has been a frequent visitor to ECS meetings and events and consultant for over fifteen years. With wisdom, humor, authentic biblical and African reference, he

wove the need to rise above tribalism, personality and candidate identification to a focus on what is needed in a new archbishop...a servant, a strong leader, a visionary. Stancliffe spoke of the potential when a good leader is in place and asked all to rise above. I myself felt swept up in the vision he painted as he set the scene for the election.

Anita Sanborn Reports:

Hope and unity and a recognition that the Episcopal Church of Sudan has an important role to play as the nation of Sudan struggles to make progress and rebuild, even as cracks appear in the implementation of the hard-won Comprehensive Peace Agreement, were the marks of this election.



*Archbishop-elect Daniel Deng Bul's wife,
Deborah, with Anita Sanborn*

AFRECS IS THERE...ELECTION OF THE 4TH ARCHBISHOP, CON'T.

The weather in Juba was hot and dry, as is usual for the middle of February. The compound of the Cathedral evidenced some recent building (of new “luxury” rest rooms and an internet establishment). This year there was a lot of sand and dust blowing through town because many streets have been graded but not surfaced. Juba has been described by NPR reporters as being like a scene out of “the wild, wild West.” It has grown tremendously in the past two years, given the establishment of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) offices and parliament, as well as the presence of international NGO's, returning Sudanese and plenty of Ugandans and Kenyans seeking to do business. Some improvements are in evidence at the local hospital, for example. However, roads are so bad that SUV's labor carefully through the ruts at barely 5mph.

The crowd of approximately 150 persons, bishops, clergy and laity, as well as international guests and observers, gathered at All Saints Cathedral for the Emergency Synod to elect a new archbishop for the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) had to contend with some dust-filled air. However, none of us was too bothered because the overall excitement and upbeat spirit that marked the occasion made details such as this insignificant.

Election proceedings began the following day after a briefing by the Provincial Chancellor, Majok Mading Majok, as to the By-laws and Canons governing the election. For example, candidates seeking to stand for election could not be older than 65 years of age. After

moving through the agenda items in a timely manner, the election proceedings began. The Electoral College was made up of bishops, clergy and laity comprised of three delegates from each diocese. Only one Bishop was absent; The Rt. Rev. Hilary Luete was unable to return to Sudan from the UK, where he was sitting for final exams. Three candidates stood for election: Bishop Daniel Deng Bul of Renk, Bishop Francis Loyo of Rokon, and Bishop Ezekiel Kondo of Khartoum. Each candidate made a brief statement to the assembly and then the voting began.

In the first round of voting, the tally showed 39 votes for Bishop Daniel followed by Bishop Francis with 21 and Bishop Ezekiel with 15 votes. In a remarkable show of unity, Bishop Ezekiel graciously released his supporters to vote for Bishop Daniel and shortly thereafter, Bishop Francis did the same. Thus, the election took place in a spirit of generosity and candor, and when the result was clear, the ululation of women's voices was heard and several voices broke out in song.

It was a privilege to witness the desire of the delegates of ECS to coalesce behind the proven leadership of Bishop Daniel Deng, who has led the Diocese of Renk for 15 years, and who recently chaired the Peace and Justice and Reconciliation Commission of the ECS. He also served as Secretary of the House of Bishops. During the civil war, Bishop Daniel was one of a few strong advocates of human rights and freedom. His diocese was affected by long years of war and was also a flash point for violence as the diocese is located in an area that bridges south and north. Bishop Daniel

AFRECS IS THERE...ELECTION OF THE 4TH ARCHBISHOP, CON'T.

Deng Bul is the first Dinka clergy to serve as Archbishop of the ECS. Previous power struggles over transition almost tore the ECS apart in the 1980s. Senior clerics in the past divided along tribal lines, which caused deep wounds. Nevertheless, the Church has overcome those past hurts and is able to provide a real model of how democracy can function. And, this witness will not be lost on the people of the Sudan who are now just beginning to understand how long the road from war to peace to a real civil society with justice for all is going to be.

Bishop Daniel is well prepared to represent the Church at all levels – spiritual, diplomatic and pastoral. He has strong links to Virginia Theological Seminary and to the Diocese of Chicago. Renk and Chicago are Companion Dioceses. Therefore, this election signals a grace-filled commitment to move forward together and is a strong sign of hope for the future of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, which is the second fastest-growing church in Sudan

Nancy Frank Reports

Friday was an Emergency Synod Meeting.

Although there were numerous items on the agenda, the morning was used to dispense with most of them. The afternoon was saved for the critical matter of the report of the committee studying the need for additional dioceses, bishops and assistant bishops. This committee had been headed by The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul as a Provincial assignment during the past two years. A difficult discussion followed on whether new positions and dioceses

could be created on the spot, or whether it was simply the moment to accept the report. After an agonizing several hours of discussion, it was voted to receive the report of the assessment committee headed by Bishop Daniel (also made more difficult as he was conducting the meeting in his new role as Archbishop). By simply voting to receive the report, it leaves until two years from now, at the next regularly scheduled Synod, the passage of any new diocese or new position. I could feel the disappointment in the room. The report spells out clearly what must be in place before a new diocese or position can be created, and I expect the next Synod will spend much time with that issue.



AFRECS' Executive Director Nancy Frank interviewing attendees to the election of the 4th Archbishop

AFRECS IS THERE...ELECTION OF THE 4TH ARCHBISHOP, CON'T.

Saturday was a CORE group meeting. The ECS has to had six members in attendance and the partners have to had six in attendance. AFRECS was an invited observer. The partner for the United States is the Rev. Emmanuel Sserwadda, Program Officer for Africa for the Episcopal Church. Other partners were representatives from the Sudan Church Association, the Salisbury Link and the Bradford Link, the Tear Fund, Church Mission Society and Across. Various reports were given regarding different arms of the ECS and discussion of the need for a Round Table to be held in November, 2008 in Juba. Needs of the ECS include the need to teach the ECS members on giving, the need for salaries for clergy and Provincial staff, the need to set up a comprehensive financial system which includes the Kampala office, the Juba office and the Khartoum office. A short-term missionary, Judy

Gregory, from the Diocese of Delaware, will arrive in May to assist with that for four months.

Sunday, February 17, was a full service at the Cathedral with packers to push people together so more would fit into the pews. What a thrill it is clap in rhythm to hymns sung in African harmony and to feel truly a part of the Body of Christ with our brothers and sisters from the Episcopal Church of Sudan, which brings all together from the North and the South and the East and the West.

Anita and I were grateful to be present at this historic moment in the life of the ECS. It is with optimism that we look forward to new vitality energizing the Church of Sudan.



Archbishop-elect Daniel Deng Bul, center, with other Bishops after the election

ECS GUESTHOUSE RULING

LETTER FROM THE REV. CANON ENOCK TOMBE, PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, ECS

Thanks be to God for the great things He has done.

Please give thanks and praise with us for the Court ruling today (3-11-08) on the ECS Guesthouse in Khartoum. After a case lasting nearly four years, the judge today delivered his ruling in the Khartoum Court. On all seven points raised in his ruling, the judge rules in favour of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, ruling that Gabriel Roric had acted without necessary authority in selling the guesthouse. He concluded that ECS was the rightful owner and that registration of the property should be changed back to the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

The other parties have fifteen days to appeal. Appeals may be made to the Court of Appeal and finally to the High Court.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have been praying that justice be done in this case, and who have stood with us in solidarity and with financial support since we were forcibly evicted by the police in May, 2004.

AND FROM RUSSELL RANDLE,
HONORARY CANON OF ST. MATTHEW
CATHEDRAL, RENK DIOCESE,
AND BOARD MEMBER OF AFRECS

Dear colleagues in ministry,

As many of you will recall, the NIF government seized this building from the church, using 100 heavily armed policemen in May, 2004. In addition to seizing the property based on a fraudulent sale by deposed Bishop Gabriel Roric, they were reportedly planning to arrest Bishop Daniel Deng Bul, who slipped away quietly in civilian clothes. The police were also reportedly hoping to spark resistance so they could shoot people. Thankfully, Bishop Daniel kept the people from resisting, and no one was hurt.



Bishop Daniel Deng Bul & Russell Randle in conversation on the upper veranda of the ECS Guest House in January 1998.

ECS GUESTHOUSE RULING, CON'T.

Christ Church, Alexandria, provided funds for the litigation to get the property back, which is now successful, at least through the trial phase. I learned in Juba in June, 2007, that the purchaser of the property had been arrested by the SPLA in the south on unrelated charges. The Deputy Justice Minister who issued the arrest warrant was our friend, Majok Mading Majok, Chancellor for Renk Diocese. We met him at the ECS Guesthouse in Khartoum, where we stayed on our first fact-finding mission trip to Sudan in 1998.

We also learned on our 2007 visit that the protest staged by the Diocese of Virginia at the Sudanese Embassy in May, 2004, in response to this seizure (and the nearly simultaneous destruction of the Renk Bible College) allowed Bishop Daniel and the Bible College to lawfully claim the excellent location it now occupies, formerly the town square in Renk Town.

There is plenty in the Psalms about evil schemes coming back to hurt those who pursue them, and this seems to be a very good example of that coming true.

AND FROM THE RT. REV. FRANK GRAY, RETIRED ASSISTANT BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

Dear Ones,

This is such good news. The Diocese of Virginia also helped with legal funding, and I thought the Episcopal Church of Sudan would never see the building again. Thank God I was wrong. Please keep the Church in Sudan in your prayers, as they prepare to receive their new Archbishop, The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul.

AND FROM THE MOST REV. DANIEL DENG BUL, ARCHBISHOP-ELECT, ECS

Dear Nancy (Frank),

Thank you for the message you have sent me concerning the ruling of the court case, on our favour. It is God's work.

The Guesthouse would not have come back if the CPA was not signed. We thank God for that and we give thanks to all the members of AFRECS for the great contributions you have done to us towards this case. If it was to be only us without your support, we would have found it difficult. But, we thank God and all the Friends who stood with us.

May God bless all the members of AFRECS.

ECS ARCHBISHOP MARONA URGES, “LET YOUR WORK BE FRUITFUL,” AS HE RETIRES

30th December 2007

Thankfulness and encouragement marked the farewell address of His Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Marona, to his fellow bishops meeting in Juba yesterday. Announcing his imminent retirement at the end of December 2007, the Archbishop encouraged the bishops to continue to work together and to be of one mind in Christ Jesus.

The Archbishop thanked his fellow bishops for their close fellowship and counsel together during his eight years as Archbishop and for the good times he had spent with them travelling around their dioceses. He encouraged them to be fruitful in their ministry and to keep clear from politics within the church.

The Archbishop urged prayer for the choice of his successor. He regretted that ill health had caused him to reduce by two years his term of office as Archbishop, but gave assurance that in his retirement he would continue to be committed in prayer, and as his health permitted, to be available as an advisor.

The Archbishop expressed special gratitude to his wife, Mama Eunice Marona, for her strong support during his ministry, and to the Provincial Secretary, Canon Enock Tombe, for his efficient leadership of the Provincial Administration.



The assembled bishops thanked Archbishop Marona wholeheartedly for his ministry as Archbishop. Bishop Daniel Deng praised his prayerful and patient ministry while Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail expressed admiration of how by God’s grace the Archbishop had been able to overcome many difficulties through prayer and consultation. Bishop Levi Hassan declared that God had chosen the Archbishop at a difficult time and that through his humility, many things had been possible. Bishop Justin Badi paid special tribute to the Archbishop’s efforts to uplift the ministry of women within the church.

The Rev. Canon Enock Tombe

THE WAY FORWARD FOR SUDAN

GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN MISSION IN WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

*By Fritz Gilbert & Carolyn Mackay, Executive Committee
Members of the AFRECS Board*

On November 16th and 17th the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Mission in Washington held a conference, *The Way Forward for Sudan*, at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, near the Pentagon.

Most of the first day's presentations and discussions focused on the content of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Speakers agreed that its full implementation would transform the Sudan into a functioning democracy with transparent institutions and spell the end of the current monopoly on power now held by the Islamist National Congress Party (NCP). Also, the CPA provides a model applicable to resolution of the conflicts between the marginalized populations of Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, Eastern Sudan and Southern Blue Nile Province, on one hand, and the NCP on the other.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in January of 2005. Discussions focused lightly on its structure and content, but more rigorously on its implications and the bumpy and halting process of implementing it. Implementation is lagging seriously.

The CPA is more than a formula for stopping fighting and renewing cooperation between North and

South. It provides a new formula for sharing political power and resources between North and South. It provides for a semi-autonomous government of the South, opens cabinet and other senior positions in the Government of National Unity (GONU) to Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leaders and their nominees, provides for a national census in 2007, for national and local elections in 2009, and for a referendum in the future status of the South in 2011. It provides for new bodies to implement the various elements or protocols, such as those pertaining to military restructuring, unresolved border issues, oil revenues, the adoption of an interim national constitution, as well as new Southern Sudanese and state constitutions in the South.

Because of the democratic, institutional, constitutional and human rights changes provided for in the CPA (and even though they benefit the South initially) its implementation would fulfill Dr. John Garang's dream of *transforming* the Sudan (which he characterized as so *deformed* as to be beyond *reform*). Its full implementation would render Sudan genuinely democratic. It would become endowed with transparent institutions for governance at all levels, for collecting and administering oil revenues and other resources, for overseeing elections and for safeguarding human rights. Thus, its application would address most of the grievances and aspirations of the marginalized populations of Sudan's peripheries in the West

THE WAY FORWARD, CON'T.

(Darfur), the North, the East, Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains.

Therefore, it is important that the international community give full attention to the CPA and do everything they can to assure its implementation. Presently, however, CPA implementation is not moving forward as it should. The NCP holds most of the power in Sudan's Government of National Unity (GONU) and has been thwarting its implementation. Why? Because they are a narrow group without broad national support, and they correctly perceive that full implementation of the CPA will drastically weaken their hold on power.

The above analysis emerged from the presentations on day one. There was a certain amount of overlap among the various presentations. On no important points did their talks conflict or contradict one another.

Later sessions on day one and those on the next day covered such areas as The Role of Sanctions; Internally Displaced Persons, Public Health, Education, Water and Sanitation; Business 101 for Southern Sudan; and Investing in Southern Sudan.

The principal speakers were Ezekiel Gatkuoth, the Head of Mission; Roger Winter of ENOUGH (a project of the International Crisis Group and the Center for American Progress focused currently on the crises in Darfur, Eastern Congo and Somalia. John Prendergast

has moved over to ENOUGH, as well.); Dr. Anne Itto, Advisor to the President of Southern Sudan on agriculture and food security and SPLM Deputy Secretary General for Southern Sudan; Dr. Brian D'Silva, Advisor to USAID on Sudan program matters; Omer Ismail, Fellow at the Kennedy School and at Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy; Ted Dagne of the Congressional Research Service; Adam Szubin of Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Treasury; Sam Bell, Darfur Activist and member of Darfur Coalition's Board of Directors; and keynote speaker Dr. Francis Deng, currently Special Advisor on Human Rights to the U.N. Secretary General (formerly of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, the Institute for Peace; previously Sudanese Ambassador to the U.S. and several other countries and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs).

Deng Deng Nhial, Trade and Investment Officer of the GOSS Mission, served as Master of Ceremonies and did an excellent job of tying all the presentations together and juggling an agenda that had to be constantly improvised due to late arrivals, cancellations and, in one case, a malfunctioning computer that contained Dr. Itto's speech.

COMINGS AND GOINGS.....

2008

February 2

CATHERINE THOMAS, REGISTERED NURSE, MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S, ST. JOSEPH, MI, DEPARTED FOR SUDAN TO ASSIST IN SURGERY AND PROVIDE HEALTH EDUCATION AT WERKOK HOSPITAL, WITH PARTNERS IN COMPASSIONATE CARE.

February 11-18

ANITA SANBORN, AFRECS BOARD, AND NANCY FRANK, AFRECS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, represented AFRECS at the Emergency Synod, Juba, for the election of the 4th Archbishop of the ECS.

February 19 - March 1

NANCY FRANK accompanied supporters of WATER FOR SUDAN, INC., from Rochester, NY, to Bahr el Ghazal, to see the boreholes dug in its four years of operation, under the direction of Sudanese refugee, Salva Dut.

February 26

BILL AND DIANE DAVIDSON, St. Paul's, St. Joseph, MI, traveled to Werkok to assist with building construction and support services at Werkok Hospital, with Partners in Compassionate Care.

March 5 - May 18

THE REV. LAUREN STANLEY returned to Renk Diocese for 3 months to teach at the Renk Theological College. She will also teach water engineering and build six water cisterns for St. Michael's Chapel on the campus.

March 26 - April 5

Team from HOPE FOR HUMANITY, Richmond, VA, going to Atiaba, Diocese of Rumbek, for dedication and blessing of Hope and Resurrection Secondary School. Travelers are Bishop Peter Lee, VA, The Rev. Hillary West, Buck Blanchard, Margaret Nea, Alberta Lindsey, Maker Marial, Darryl and Jennifer Ernst, The Rev. David Copley.

March 26 - April 5

NEWLAND SMITH, retired Associate Professor of Bibliography and Librarian, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, going to Renk as consultant for Renk Theological College in setting up its library.

April 16 - 22

DELEGATIONS going to Juba for the Enthronement of The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, Archbishop-elect, at All Saints' Cathedral: Representing P.B. Katharine Jefferts Schori: Bishops Frank Gray, retired Assistant, VA, Victor Scantlebury, Chicago, and Fr. Emmanuel Sserwadda, Africa Partnership Office, Richard Parkins, EMM, Janette O'Neill, ERD, Alex Baumgarten, Office of Government Relations. Representing Diocese of VA: Bishop Shannon Johnston, Fr. Andrew Merrow, Buck Blanchard, Russell Randle. Representing Diocese of Chicago & St. Michael's, Barrington: Fr. Alvin Johnson, Philip Darrow.

COMINGS AND GOINGS, CON'T.

JUDITH GREGORY, CPA and the Business Manager for the Diocese of Delaware, will be spending her sabbatical in Sudan working with the ECS Province office in both Khartoum and Juba where the relief and development monies that come in from all over the world are managed.

AND THE HONOR GOES TO.....

CAROL RINEHART, Director of Project Education in Sudan, building schools in Southern Sudan, of Denver, CO, selected to be a delegate to the meeting in New York of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, February 23-March 3.

JENNIFER ERNST, Director of Hope for Humanity, Inc., building Hope and Resurrection Secondary School, Diocese of Rumbek, ECS, of Richmond, VA, was given the Harriet A. "Happy" Pullman Award at the 2008 Annual Council of the Diocese of VA for exemplary work in Christian social ministry.

THE MOST REV. DANIEL DENG BUL, 4th Archbishop of the ECS and Bishop of Juba, will receive Doctor of Divinity Degree, *honoris causa*, at Virginia Theological Seminary graduation, May 22. His Grace will be in the U.S. early in May, visiting son, Peter, in NC, Trinity Wall Street, NY, Diocese of Chicago, St. Michael's, Barrington, IL, Duke Divinity School, NC. He is keynote speaker opening night of the AFRECS Conference in Chicago, May 30.



INTRODUCING FREDERICK E. GILBERT

FOUNDING MEMBER & TREASURER OF THE AFRECS BOARD

Interview by Jackie Kraus, AFRECS Board Member



Fritz, you served in Sudan with USAID. How did that evolve into a deeper commitment to the ECS and your role in founding AFRECS?

My relationship to Sudan started during my service there with USAID from 1986 to 1990. While there, my wife and I were part of the English-

speaking congregation at All Saints Cathedral in Khartoum. The Rev. Sylvester Kambaya Thomas was Chaplain there, and when it came time for us to leave, I wanted to arrange for Sylvester to have a year of study at Virginia Theological Seminary. A saintly Catholic priest, Fr. Ed Brady, agreed to watch over Sylvester's wife and children while he was away. The former Rector at St. Alban's, Annandale, Fr. John Frizzell, put me in touch with a professor at VTS, Richard Jones. Rich supported the idea and was instrumental in bringing Fr. Sylvester to VTS. We've been friends ever since.

When Rich conceived the idea of forming American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, we talked

about it, and he asked me to help. Like many people who have been involved with Sudan, I retained a deep sympathy for the Sudanese and an interest in Sudanese issues. I thought Rich's idea was a good one. Meanwhile, he was recruiting other interested people. Together, we held workshops at St. Alban's, Annandale, in January, 2004, and at St. Bartholomew's, Richmond, in April, 2004. These generated stronger support and gave us the resolve to go forward with the idea.

Can you give us a nuts and bolts description of the budgetary operation of AFRECS?

If you want to know how our budget process works, you might do better to consult a Theologian. This is, in effect, a faith-based budget – the only one that I've ever been directly involved with.

In late 2004, we laid plans for the first AFRECS Conference. It was held in February, 2005 with virtually no funds in our "treasury" and no certain knowledge of where the funds would come from. But, come they did in the form of contributions from individuals and organizations – including parishes, dioceses, the Episcopal Church of the U.S.A. and one small foundation – membership dues and Conference registration fees. So, our first Conference was held on schedule and was very successful, but getting there made me pretty twitchy at times. In the Federal government, where I worked most of my adult life, there is something called the Anti-Deficiency Act, which makes it a criminal offense to incur expenses unless the necessary funds are in hand.

INTRODUCING FREDERICK GILBERT, CON'T.

Since that first Conference, we've never started the year with enough money on hand to fund our Conference. Nonetheless, we have to set our budget and start making arrangements that we won't be able to pay for, if the funds don't materialize. I'm getting tougher, and I know it doesn't apply to me anymore, but the Anti-Deficiency Act still haunts me at times.

As a dues-paying member, let me ask you to share with all of us out there a few details of how our dues support the mission of AFRECS.

Since the mission of AFRECS is to connect hopes and gifts, the centerpiece of the AFRECS' program and, therefore, its budget, is the Annual Conference. Last year's Conference cost \$29,865, or 72% of our total expenditures, which were \$41,370. Among the largest Conference costs were \$11,040 for participation of ECS representatives and \$5,609 for travel scholarships for 13 Lost Boys and Girls from within the U.S. AFRECS also waived conference registration fees for 26 Lost Boys and Girls.

Our only other major expense besides the Conference is reimbursement of business travel expenses for our Executive Director and partial representational travel reimbursement of Board members of AFRECS to Sudan for ECS events to which we are invited. We did little of that in 2007, but the year before AFRECS was represented at the first Synod that the ECS had been able to hold in Sudan in 18 years. This year, AFRECS was represented by Nancy Frank and Board member, Anita Sanborn, at the Emergency Synod in Juba, where Bishop Daniel Deng Bul was elected Archbishop of Sudan and Bishop of Juba. Our policy is to send no more than two people on representative travel. And, of course, the expectation is that representatives return with reports to share with members and friends through Sudan Connections, the website and the

Annual Conference.

And, what is the benefit of being a member of AFRECS -- to American friends and our friends in Sudan?

In my view, the benefit of being a member of AFRECS is that – if we're doing our job right – it enables all of us who are engaged with the ECS to work smarter by being better informed and by learning from one another's experiences and discoveries. The newsletter, *Sudan Connections*, is important, but our most powerful tool is the Annual Conference. It brings together key representatives of the ECS, members of the Sudanese refugee community and U.S. individuals and groups who want to help them in the best way possible. This promotes not only exchange of information, but just as importantly direct personal contact and the kind of understanding only that can bring.

As a result of the discussions held at last year's Conference in St. Louis, the Board decided that this year's theme would be "Growing Relationships . . . Building Partnerships." The main U.S. speakers and panel members will be individuals with concrete experience in this area. At the same time, our Sudanese guests can tell us about their needs, challenges and pre-occupations. I personally am looking forward to the forthcoming Chicago Conference as never before.

Fritz and his wife divide their "retirement" time between Falls Church, VA, and Vermont, where they ski and enjoy their family, especially their grandchildren.

CHRISTMAS AT KAKUMA

ECS ACTIVELY PRESENT AMONG THE REFUGEES



The ECS church has a different way of organizing people to function well in the church. This was the group of youth choirs who were presenting the entertainment during the gathering for an event at Zone six pre-school.



JOL WO LIEECH, the main youth ministry in the ECS is considered to have been playing a great role in the Evangelism, and gospel proclamation among the Dinka congregations since the starting of the church. This gave them a unique standard by the believers that they are actually ambassadors for Christ. Their teaching, activities, and conduct has portrayed the spiritual formation. This is by the gospel according to Saint Matt 5:16 “let your light shine so they may see your good deeds and they may praise your father in Heaven”



JOL WO LIEECH members during the Christmas festival January 2008.



Zone 3A Parish’s women were expressing their happiness and giving praise to the new born Christ.



The congregation was focusing following the entertainment from the JWL choirs during the festival event of the year at Kakuma.

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

HOPE AND RESURRECTION SECONDARY SCHOOL TO OPEN ON SCHEDULE IN 2008

*By Jennifer & Darryl Ernst,
Founders of Hope for Humanity, Inc.*

God continues to work miracles through Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Atiaba, Southern Sudan! Coming in under budget, the school construction was completed in July!

Anticipating the new operating phase, Jennifer and Darryl Ernst, Richmond, VA, left the US November 1 for Southern Sudan. They were accompanied by James and Mary Higbee from the Diocese of Northern California. They have accepted assignments to serve as Headmistress and Administrator of Hope and Resurrection Secondary School, scheduled to open April 1, 2008. Jim and Mary are Volunteers for Mission.

This is the first time Jim and Mary had been to Africa, so it was important that they receive the proper introductions to the Bishops of the Diocese of Rumbek and the people they will serve in the village of Atiaba and beyond. While in Nairobi and Sudan, they met with Bishops, teachers and prospective students, networked with other missionaries in the area, ordered desks and classroom furniture from a local carpenter, ordered textbooks in Nairobi, priced school supplies and school start up items. All this work to provide an accurate budget!

During their stay in the region, they were excited to hear so many local people discussing the opening of Hope and Resurrection, a two-hour drive from

Rumbek. The gratitude expressed by all was overwhelming; they recognize that education will help them break the cycle of poverty and improve their future. They see Hope and Resurrection as an agent of positive change.

Keep the school in your prayers. The new school year in Southern Sudan begins April 1, and there is much to be done to prepare for the opening -- hiring teachers, cooks, supplies, desks to be arranged, lessons planned. Sixty students, two classes of Form One (9th grade) will be admitted as the class of 2012, the first graduates of Hope and Resurrection!

The vision for Hope and Resurrection is to provide quality education and serve as a model school for the whole of Southern Sudan. Qualified, trained teachers will teach the best and brightest students: the future leaders of Southern Sudan.

As a part of our effort to provide a quality education, we will provide a hot lunch, as this is possibly the one meal they will eat a day, and it is critical for their learning. We will employ two cooks for the staff and students. While African schools are in session, the teachers live on campus and their room and board is part of their "benefit package."

Contact *Hope for Humanity*, a registered 501(c)3 organization, at their website, www.HopeForHumanityInc.org, or telephone 804-784-3830, to offer your support.

AN EMAIL MESSAGE
FROM
JENNIFER ERNST,
MARCH 9, 2008

Higbees Sudan Mission

PRAYER REQUESTS +

+ FOR SAFE TRAVELS IN
AND OUT OF SUDAN

+ FOR SUCCESSFUL
HIRING OF A MATH &
SCIENCE TEACHER FOR
HOPE AND
RESURRECTION
SECONDARY SCHOOL

+ FOR SUCCESSFUL
HIRING OF A
HEADMASTER
FOR THE SCHOOL

+ FOR OPENING DAY,
APRIL 1

+ FOR GOD TO PREPARE
HEARTS OF THE
SUDANESE WHO WILL BE
THEIR FRIENDS AND
PARTNERS IN THE TASKS
AHEAD

+ THANKS TO GOD FOR
CLEOUS, UGANDAN
TEACHER, TO ARRIVE IN
ATIABA MARCH 20

+ CONTINUE TO PRAY
FOR JIM AND MARY, FOR
STRENGTH AND
STAMINA, FOR GOOD
HEALTH IN SUPPORT OF
THEIR MISSION

DID YOU COME FROM WHERE GOD LIVES?

KENYA, SUDAN, JORDAN & ISRAEL - JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2008

by Fran Boyle

Director of *Connecting Lives International*

Kenya

The time I spend in Kenya is usually busy but pleasant as I prepare for the trips into Sudan, but I found Kenya a different country in late January and early February. Tourists were scarce, taxi drivers, hotels, and shops were suffering and everyone was on edge. I was one of only two (either brave or foolish) foreigners staying at the ACK Guest House in Nairobi. At the Anglican Cathedral on Sunday morning, I listened as the pastor and some members from the church in Eldoret described how many people had been burned alive as they fled a mob to what they thought was the safety of the church. The Archbishop prayed over them, and we were all stunned at hearing, first hand, how cruel humankind can be to one another. I had opportunities to pray with and encourage a number of Kenyans whom I know and also prayed for others that I came in contact with during my time in Nairobi. Because of the dangers and closed roads, I did not venture outside of the city to visit Sudanese refugees, as I usually do.

Sudan

On a dirt runway in the middle of nowhere—Western Aweil, Northern Bahr El Ghazal Province in Southern Sudan—the MAF pilot asked me, “How long do you intend to stay here?,” as he watched us unload the last of the medical supplies from the chartered plane. I told him I would be there until I could catch a UN flight from Nyamlllel, half an hour away,



on Monday of the following week. He said, “That is a long time,” as he shook his head and hopped back in the plane and flew away. I stood in the dirt field and felt my heart stop for a moment, but then I looked up and saw the Christians coming waving their wooden crosses, and I prayed, “Lord just keep me focused on you and on the assignment here, not on the circumstances or the harsh environment.”

It was good to see some of the same faces from 2 years ago. It was sad, however, to see some of the same little dirty faces of the orphan children, especially the children who had been purchased back from slavery. They are easy to spot. Their little eyes are very dull and lifeless. The dirt on their faces has grown into their skin and their faces are whitish.



DID YOU COME FROM WHERE GOD LIVES, CON'T.

Church members carried the boxes of medicines, mattresses, our tents, our luggage, and other supplies as we made our way to the church compound where we set up our tents and where a hundred or so people had walked to welcome Pastor Santino and me. There were speeches and warm welcomes. Community and church leaders came out to offer their greetings and express their gratitude for our coming. The Chaplain of the Army was among those bringing greetings. Separate meetings were then arranged with the women and with the elders of the church community. The elders requested fishing equipment so they could catch fish from a river in the area to help feed the community.



I was so impressed to see that the women had woven a fence of rush stalks about 6 feet high that encompasses the entire church property (about an acre). The women have to walk about 10 miles to the river to cut the stalks and then carry them back on their heads before they even begin their hand woven project. It is amazing. Needless to say, you feel safer with this fence around the compound and I praised the women for their sacrifice.

I couldn't resist spending time with some of the little orphan children. I also couldn't resist the urge to take some of them for a bath at the water well. One bright little boy named Longar especially touched my heart.

He said, "You know, I do not have a mommy or a daddy." I replied, "I know, but you are very special, and you have a heavenly Father who loves you very much." Then he asked me, "*Did you come from where God lives?*" I questioned Pastor Santino about the possibility of adoptions for some of the children. He said that it could be arranged, and I continue to think of that possibility.

Our mission for this trip was to travel several hours away to Jorbich to see the clinic that had just been completed there and to bring supplies, beds, and medicines to furnish it. We waited for our vehicle (a truck belonging to the Commissioner of Aweil Province) to arrive the next day to take us and most of the supplies to Jorbich. The truck arrived late, but we finally got on the road around 7 p.m. We drove into the night over bumpy, deeply rutted roads seeing only an occasional fox, rabbit, or bobcat.

Around 10 p.m., as we were nearing Jorbich, several soldiers stepped out of the woods into the road and stopped our vehicle. As I wondered what this was about, they told the driver that they had been waiting for us for hours and wanted to invite us to their compound where they had arranged a ceremonial welcome. I was surprised at this and despite the late hour knew that we would certainly go to their compound. As we drove into the military compound, the drums were beating and soldiers were singing praise songs. We stood out under the stars, blessed by their songs and words of welcome. They asked me to speak to them and pray over them. I was so stirred with emotion. I told them that I knew that the only explanation for the survival of the South with so little to defend it against the airpower, bombs, and weapons of the North was the fact that they had always put God first. I told them of my memories of the first soldiers I had met 9 years earlier. Although those soldiers were barefoot and in

DID YOU COME FROM WHERE GOD LIVES, CON'T.

bags, the only things that they asked for, were song-books and Bibles, which I returned with later that year. That night the soldiers presented us with a goat, a very valuable gift. We didn't have room for the goat along with the supplies, but the soldiers promised to bring it to Jorbich the next day.

Even though it was 11:30 p.m. when we arrived at Jorbich, a huge crowd began to appear from out of nowhere. They sang and shouted as we drove into the compound where the clinic was located. A sign reading "Mustard Seed Clinic" was the first thing that we saw.

When I caught the first glimpse of the clinic, my tears began to fall. I found it hard to believe that this accomplishment had actually occurred. It is the first permanent building to ever be constructed in this area. It had taken a couple of years, many donations from faithful people, and a few logistical miracles. There it was, and it was so much bigger than I had imagined!

We went inside the large room that is to become a ward with beds and found about 15 refugees from Darfur camping on the floor. Even though they were bedded down for the night on the hard concrete, they invited us in and were so relieved to see us. Their eyes and hands were reaching out to us and pleading for us to help them. They especially wanted us to see a young man that they had wrapped up in a blanket in one corner of the room. His family was hovering over him with worried faces. The young man had a high fever and stomach pain and was vomiting. He had been ill for a couple of weeks and was steadily getting worse. We consulted with the young medics who had come with us to open the clinic, and they decided to start the young man on antibiotics right away and see him again in the morning.



We held a clinic for most of the next day. In addition to the local people, we saw many Darfurians who had traveled by donkey from a nearby settlement. At a meeting later that day, the leaders of the Darfurians told us that they were simple cattlemen who had fled attacks and raids where many of their cattle were taken by the Janjaweed, local militias. They said that there are now 1,000 Darfurians in the area. I told them that it was the love of Christ in the Christians reaching out to them. For 21 years, the local people had endured the same thing that the Darfurians were fleeing. The northern government in Khartoum often hired Darfurians to raid the Southerners during those years. Now, the Darfurians were the ones in need, and the Christians were reaching out in compassion and forgiveness. I believe that the clinic is a special bridge between the two communities. At a community meeting where all the community leaders expressed their gratitude for the clinic, the Darfurian leader said, "We are most grateful to the local Christians for welcoming us and to those who have provided this clinic to serve us all."

We wound up taking the Darfurian boy (Wady), his father and his grandmother with us in the truck to Nyamlllel, where I had been told there was a clinic run by a non-governmental organization (NGO) where we could get some additional help for him. I knew that he

DID YOU COME FROM WHERE GOD LIVES, CON'T.

was seriously ill and might die if we did not help him. In addition to Wady and his family, we had several other hitchhikers as well as our luggage, tents, and other supplies piled into the back of the pickup.

We dropped Pastor Santino at a church in Majok Bai, where I was expected, as well. However, I knew that I had to continue on to Nyamllel with the Darfurians. Santino later told us that 1,500 people showed up at the church in Majok Bai. We finally arrived at the clinic in Nyamllel. Although the clinic building was only



a straw shelter, it was well stocked with medicines supplied by a large NGO. The medics quickly went to work on Wady. They determined that he had malaria and was dehydrated and hooked him up to an IV. They said that he would have died if we had not brought him. The father and grandmother were full of gratitude. We made arrangements for the commissioner to get the family back to Jorbich when Wady is well enough to travel. Praise God for his provision.

We camped at the Commissioner's compound for the night and joyfully and thankfully caught the UN plane on the dirt runway within walking distance of the compound. The UN World Food Program flight lasted the entire day and took us all over the south. We missed our flight from Loki, Kenya, to Nairobi. Fortunately, we made it the following day in time for me to catch my flight out of Nairobi to Amman, Jordan.

Jordan and Israel

In Jordan, I connected with a friend. We had some

incredible ministry appointments in Jordan, where we led a young Muslim man from a Bedouin tribe to the Lord. We also traveled to Israel, where I had an unusual appointment with a Christian and an Israeli organization, both of which are working to help Sudanese refugees who have fled to Israel from Egypt across the Sinai Desert. The Sudanese are being treated badly in Egypt. They thought that the UN would resettle them in another country, but the UN will no longer do so and is deporting them to Khartoum. Most say that they would rather die than be sent back to Khartoum. Some did die in the process of fleeing to Israel, but many have made it, creating a dilemma for the Israelis. While I was there, a tentative agreement was reached with the Israeli government to offer training to the Sudanese before sending them back to the South. Since that time, however, many Sudanese continue to try to flee to Israel; this continued influx may jeopardize the tentative agreement.

Throughout all my travels, I was very aware of walking in the supernatural and under the holy protection of the Almighty. The wonderful prayer coverage made it all possible.

I am so grateful for all of the prayers, financial support, and encouragement that made my trip possible. Now is a time for sharing and discerning the next steps that the Lord will order. We know for sure that we must raise regular support for the clinic now that it is open. May no one arrive there to find that there are no medicines or that no one is there to administer the medicines. It is a faith walk on our end to believe that the provision will come, just as it is for the Sudanese, who are accustomed to living by faith alone.

Fran Boyle has been going into Sudan for nine years. With the help of others, she helps support the Church through practical support and advocacy. Fran can be contacted at franfb@cox.net.

AFRICAN MISSION MINISTRY TEAMS FROM ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN, GO OUT INTO THE WORLD - WERKOK, SUDAN

by Bill & Diane Davidson, Co-chairs,
Dave & Joy Mueller, Catherine Thomas

St. Paul's African Mission Ministry was formed in April 2007, following a short-term mission trip by two church members to Sudan, Kenya and Zambia. Our mission is to strive to improve the lives of the African people through prayer, raising awareness and enabling outreach opportunities. The primary focus of our outreach has been Werkok Hospital, a project of Compassionate Care in Werkok, Sudan. We raised funds for the hospital and sent three church members to volunteer at the site in February and March 2008. In two years' time, on nothing but a grassy field, Werkok Hospital, a 30' x 100' building now stands, ready for the interior finishing touches. There is a portable operating room and recovery room, and a combination Eye/Dental Clinic on the compound where cataract and trachoma surgeries take place.

Medical Miracles!!!

Recently, Dave and Joy Mueller traveled to Werkok, with their three sons, for five weeks, and sent this report of miraculous stories. A 4-year-old girl, called

Nyanchiek, which in Dinka means "born with a defect," had surgery on her cleft lip in Werkok Hospital, with wondrous results -- a miracle, considering that south Sudan has no infrastructure. The one who was once called "defective" has been given a new name to go with her new smile, Deborah, in honor of the wife of Dr. Bert Oubre, the surgeon who had a hand in this miracle.

Joy had the privilege of being present when the bandages were removed from an elderly woman's eyes after cataract surgery. At first, she did not realize that she could see. "I bent over and greeted her. She turned her head toward my voice, and then she saw me. She really saw me! Tears rolled down her cheeks, and she enthusiastically grabbed my hands, as for the first time in years, she truly could see again!"

On February 2, Catherine Thomas, a registered nurse and member of St. Paul's, left for Werkok Hospital to assist in surgery, organize hospital medical supplies and provide health education for the Sudanese. She has been a huge help getting things up and running and has begun training local workers. The clinic is seeing 50 to 70 patients per day, typically with worms, dehydration, vomiting and diarrhea. Surgeries have included hernias, lipomas, cyst removals and a cleft lip repair. There have also been some cases of malaria. A mobile eye team, mostly from Kenya, has also been on site performing cataract and trachoma surgeries.



ST. PAUL'S MISSION TEAMS, CON'T.



In late February, we will travel to Werkok. Bill will be involved in the continued construction of the hospital, and Diane will provide support services, as needed. We volunteered there in 2007, also. Bill installed lightning protection on the hospital, and Diane dispensed medications at the clinic and assisted with cooking and other team support.

St. Paul's has truly embraced this ministry. We are learning as we go, taking one step at a time. We have come a very long way in our first year. We encourage any of you who feel called to such a ministry to take that first step. Who knows where it will lead!

About Partners in Compassionate Care

PCC is an ecumenical NGO formed by a few people in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who went to Sudan at the invitation of Bishop Nathaniel Garang and The Rev. Dr. Stephen Mathiang Kuc. Bishop Nathaniel and Pastor Stephen had visited Grand Rapids to speak with the Sudanese community and encourage them to get their educations and return to Sudan to help their people. At that time, they invited the Americans to "come and see." A few felt called to go and could not believe what they saw. After returning home, they formed PCC to address some of those needs. Medical care and pastor training were the priorities identified

by Bishop Nathaniel and Pastor Stephen, and so these have been the focus of PCC. More information about PCC is available on their website at www.pccsudan.org.



Bill & Diane Davidson at work in Werkok



BOR TOWN NOW HAS NETWORK

DECEMBER 26, 2007 DANIEL BOL ATENY



Bor Town has the Gemtel network. This shows to the people in the South that change has started, and the development of the towns is possible. People are now communicating with their relatives within Sudan and the neighboring countries, as well as the other continents such as America, Australia, Canada, Europe and many other places.

DATES TO REMEMBER

AFRECS Conference

May 30-June 1

4th Annual Conference at the Lutheran School of Theology and
St. Paul & the Redeemer Church, Hyde Park, Illinois

Registration form on the AFRECS website at www.afreecs.org

World Mission Conference of The Episcopal Church

June 4-8

Everyone Everywhere

Maritime Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

Contact Mary Brennan mbrennan@episcopalchurch.org